

Docket No.: 122.1447

Serial No. 09/816,370

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 8-18 are amended and claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 4-18 remaining pending herein and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

All of the originally pending claims 1-18 were rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended to better clarify the invention and distinguish over the art of record and remaining amended claims are amended for clarification and to improve form.

ITEM 2: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 4-5, 7, 10-11, 13 AND 16-17 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER SHIMIZU ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,311,013) IN VIEW OF HIRAYAMA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 5,630,006);

ITEM 3: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 6-9, 12-15 AND 18 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER NAKAMURA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 5,970,205) IN VIEW OF YONEMITSU (U.S. PATENT 5,592,450); and

ITEM 4: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4, 5, 10, 11 AND 16-17 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER NAKAMURA ET AL. IN VIEW OF YONEMITSU AS SUPPLIED IN CLAIMS 1, 7, AND 13, AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF AKIHA ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 6,377,745)

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests the feature "a plurality of images recorded in said image recording means at different time points are read and synthesized", "a plurality of image contents recorded at different time points", and "special reproduction functions" as claimed in the currently amended claim 1 of the present application.

The cited reference to Shimizu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,311,013) discloses, from col. 14, line 63 to col. 15, line 37, a structure with which images at a plurality of angles are simultaneously reproduced. However, this reference does not disclose or suggest the feature "a plurality of images recorded in said image recording means at different time points are read and synthesized", "a plurality of images recorded at different time points", and "special reproduction functions" as recited in currently amended claim 1 of the present application.

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The cited reference to Hirayama et al. (U.S. Patent 5,630,006) discloses, in col. 3, lines 57-58 and FIG. 1, that: "a plurality of simultaneously processing scenes are recorded on the disk 100...". However, this reference also does not disclose or suggest the feature "a plurality of images recorded in said image recording means at different time points are read and synthesized", "a plurality of images recorded at different time points", and "special reproduction functions" as recited in currently amended claim 1 of the present application.

FIGS. 12, 13 and their related descriptions in the cited reference to Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent 5,970,205) merely disclose a picture compression method.

Yonemitsu et al. (U.S. Patent 5,592,450) also merely disclose a picture compression method.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that none of the references is pertinent to the claimed subject matter of the present invention, as set forth in the currently amended claim 1, and further that the Nakamura et al. and Yonemitsu et al. references are altogether unrelated to the present invention.

LACK OF *PRIMA FACIE* DEMONSTRATION OF OBVIOUSNESS

Whereas the references are readily distinguished, individually, in the foregoing in light of the new independent claim 1 and, thus, the combinations thereof cannot serve to support the rejections of record, it is further submitted that no *prima facie* demonstration of obviousness for those combinations has been presented, consistent with the requirements of 21 MPEP 2143-2143.03 and, accordingly, that the prior art combinations are unsupported and should be withdrawn, for this further reason as well.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims have been shown in the foregoing to distinguish patentably over the references of record, taking singularly or in any proper combination.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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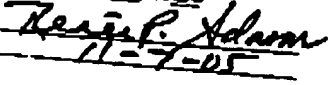
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